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DRUG EFFECTS

HINTS FOR INDEX MEDICUS USERS

MEDLARS indexes biomedical literature for publication in INDEX MEDICUS and for computer storage and retrieval. All aspects of an article are indexed completely by our literature analysts who assign to an article as many subject headings as the content requires. The analyst must designate, however, under which subject headings the citation will be published in INDEX MEDICUS and under which headings the citation will be stored in the computer only. To do this he follows many rules to help him make the judgment.

Although all the rules he follows cannot be outlined here, we can give the reader some very general principles to follow in using the published issues of the monthly or yearly INDEX MEDICUS. By perusing the admonitions below, the user will soon learn what to expect to find in INDEX MEDICUS and what he will not expect to find; where he will expect to find it and where he will not.

1. Look for a subject only in terms of those words listed in the alphabetical vocabulary published with the January issue of each INDEX MEDICUS subscription. This list of terms is called MEDICAL SUBJECT HEADINGS (MeSH).

> An article on dizziness cannot be found under Dizziness since this term does not appear in MeSH. The user must try a synonym, here, VERTIGO.

2. Look for a subject where MeSH directs the user in the form of a cross-reference.

> An article on bacteremia will be found under SEPTICEMIA for MeSH tells the user, "BACTEREMIA see SEPTICEMIA."

3. Look for terms related to that which you are seeking by examining the categorized lists of terms also published with each January issue of INDEX MEDICUS. The symbol in parentheses after the term in the alphabetical list sends you to the category in which you will find many related terms.

Index Auxiliary Notes
Index Section
Bibliographic Services Division
National Library of Medicine

An article on liver diseases will be found under LIVER DISEASES (C4) but in C4 the user will find a categorization of ALL liver diseases available in INDEX MEDICUS, beyond the term LIVER DISEASES: ACUTE YELLOW ATROPHY; FATTY LIVER; HEPATITIS; HEPATITIS, INFECTIOUS; LIVER ABCESS; LIVER CIRRHOSIS; etc.

4. Look for a subject containing a compound concept in an alternate place if you do not find it in the first place: arbitrarily, some terms are direct, some are inverted.

An article on cutaneous tuberculosis is not found under CUTANEOUS TUBERCULOSIS, but under TUBERCULOSIS, CUTANEOUS. Vinyl ether is under VINYL ETHER, not under ETHER, VINYL. For various internal technical or medical reasons, many such decisions for direct or inverted form can only be arbitrary. The user is asked to patiently try both ways.

5. Subjects are divided into more specific breakdowns by subheadings (see the list in MeSH). Look for specific aspects of subjects under the subject as divided by its subheadings: do not look under a heading which is an exact duplicate of the subheading.

An article on the radiography of the pancreas is found under PANCREAS *radiography, not under RADIOGRAPHY. An article on the metabolism of glucose is found under GLUCOSE *metabolism, not under METABOLISM. An article on penicillin in the blood is found under PENICILLIN *blood, not under BLOOD. An article on urinalysis in gout is found under GOUT *urine, not under URINE.

6. Look for the most specific term.

An article on leishmaniasis is found under LEISHMANIASIS, not under TROPICAL MEDICINE. An article on penicillin is found under PENICILLIN, not under ANTIBIOTICS.

7. Look for organs, diseases and physiological processes in persons of various ages under the organ, the disease or the physiological process, not under the age group.

An article on gout in infants is found under GOUT, not under INFANT. An article on hand injuries in the aged is under HAND INJURIES, not under AGED.

8. Look for research in various laboratory animals under the subject of the research, not under the laboratory animal.

An article on arthritis induced in rats is found under ARTHRITIS, not under RATS.

9. Look for various technics applied to specific research under the specific disease, substance, etc., not under the technic.

An article on the chromatography of amino acids is found under AMINO ACIDS *analysis, not under CHROMATOGRAPHY. An article on the electrophoresis of gamma globulin in syphilis is found under GAMMA GLOBULIN *analysis or SYPHILIS *immunology, not under ELECTROPHORESIS nor BLOOD PROTEIN ELECTROPHORESIS.

10. Look for diseases of various organs under the organ/disease term. If an organ/disease term is not in MeSH, then look under the organ.

An article on intestinal diseases is found under INTESTINAL DISEASES, not under INTESTINES. An article on jejunal diseases is sought under JEJUNAL DISEASES but since this term does not exist in MeSH, it is found under JEJUNUM and not under INTESTINAL DISEASES (since this is more general).

11. Look for diseases caused by various organisms under the organism/infection term. If an organism/infection term is not in MeSH, then look under the organism or follow the cross-reference to the correct disease. Sometimes an organ/infection term is disguised as a classical disease term.

An article on E. coli infection is found under ESCHERICHIA COLI INFECTIONS, not under ESCHERICHIA COLI. An article on Erwinia infection is sought under Erwinia Infections but since this term is not in MeSH, it is found under ERWINIA. Loaiasis is found under FILARIASIS because that is what the cross-reference directs one to. An article on Clostridium botulinum infection is not under CLOSTRIDIUM BOTULINUM, but under BOTULISM.

12. Look under -ology or -iatrics terms only for articles on the field or speciality or the -ologist or -iatrist: articles on diseases, organs or patients will not be found here.

> An article on dermatological therapy is found under SKIN DISEASES *therapy, not under DERMATOLOGY. Articles on dermatology, the field of dermatology or the dermatologist are under DERMATOLOGY.

13. Look for general pathological processes of various organs under the organ or the disease term, not under the general pathological process (necrosis, gangrene, inflammation, fracture, hypertrophy, atrophy, hyperplasia, etc.).

> An article on necrosis of the pancreas is found under PANCREATIC DISEASES, not under NECROSIS.